compared to all-India averages of 6.8 per cent, 6.6 per cent and 7.7 per cent respectively during these three years.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

Recruitment of women in Police Forces

*470. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the active consideration of Government to abolish recruitment of women in Police in the country;

(b) if so, whether some State Governments have also approached the Central Government in this regard, and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the recruitment of women in police force would be completely stopped and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise. In fact, the Central Government has consistently advised the State Governments to ensure that the strength of women personnel is raised to atleast 10 per cent.

AEZ proposals from Karnataka

*471. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent any proposals for setting up of Agri-Export Zone for aromatic medicinal and dye plants, grapes, mango, lime, pomegranate and potatoes;

(b) if so, whether any assistance has been given from Government of India; and

(c) if not, by when the proposal would be considered?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposals submitted by Government of Karnataka for setting up of Agri Export Zones (AEZs) are yet to be approved.

(c) An action plan to revitalize the AEZs based on the findings of a performance evaluation review has been considered in consultation with the concerned State Governments. One of the guidelines under the plan is a self-imposed embargo on creation of new AEZs unless there are strong and compelling reasons. Setting up of the new AEZs will be considered after a review by the State Government of their proposals in the light of the guidelines.

Increase in exports

*472. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports from India are likely to exceed $ 100 billion during the fiscal 2005-06 as it continued to register double-digit growth at about 20 per cent;

(b) if so, what has been its growth during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) what new initiatives Government have taken to actively engage State Governments in promoting India's foreign trade besides a series of new measures to simplify procedures and enhance competitiveness of exports; and

(d) the target set for 2005-06 and 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Total exports of about US $ 101 billion were achieved during 2005-06 against a target of US $ 92 billion fixed for the year; recording a growth of about 25 per cent over the previous year.

(b) The export growth during the last three years is:

	Achievement	Growth Rate
2003-04	US $ 64 billion	21%
2004-05	US $ 81 billion	27%
2005-06(P)	US $ 101 billion	25%

(P) Provisional